



Téléphone Central/Exchange: [41.22] 791 21 11  
Direct: 791 26 02/32 82

In reply please refer to:

Prière de rappeler la référence: MIM/V20/87/9

Dr J. Lederberg  
Rockefeller University  
1230 York Ave  
Box 2,  
New York, NY 10021-6399  
USA

05 JUL 1994

**BIOTECHNOLOGY AND WORLD HEALTH:**  
**VACCINES AND OTHER BIOLOGICALS PRODUCED BY GENETIC ENGINEERING:**  
**REVIEW OF RISKS AND BENEFITS**  
**WHO HQ, GENEVA 6-8 NOVEMBER 1994**

Dear Dr Lederberg,

The application of advances in biotechnology to the development of biological products for medical use is now providing important new vaccines and therapeutic agents which may play an essential role in the fight against infectious diseases of global importance. Further advances in this field and production of many additional prophylactic and therapeutic products can be expected in the foreseeable future.

The World Health Organization has decided to hold a meeting to review the benefits expected, at a global level, to accrue from investment in biotechnology for medical purposes, and the potential risks and ethical considerations involved. It is proposed to prepare general recommendations on appropriate ethical and regulatory positions to be adopted in the development and application of biotechnology products, particularly with respect to developing countries. Speakers will be expected to give proper consideration to human and environmental safety issues while avoiding hampering the generation of products essential for disease control in large areas of the world.

Your expertise in this field would be of considerable value for this endeavour, and we have pleasure in inviting you to participate in this meeting.

AUG 31 1994

*Thank you very much. But I am very sorry that I have  
inescapable conflicts for these dates, and must confirm  
I will not be able to attend.*

Encls.(5)

*My regrets, sincerely,*

*J. Schan*

cont/...